

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01440 180427Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
SP-02 L-01 SY-02 /031 W

-----009035 191740Z /43

R 170855Z MAY 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0775
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USICA WASHDC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1440

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CH US OEXC SEDU
SUBJ: PRC STUDENTS TO THE US?

1. DURING A MAY 9 VISIT TO HEILUNGKIANG UNIVERSITY (HARBIN) AT THE INVITATION OF A FOREIGN EXPERT TEACHING ENGLISH THERE, USLO OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS HAVE ESTABLISHED A "QUOTA" FOR CHINESE STUDENTS WHO WISH TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES. USLO OFFICER WAS APPROACHED BY A THIRD YEAR ENGLISH STUDENT WHO SAID THAT HE HAD SAT FOR THE APRIL NATION-WIDE EXAMINATIONS IN PEKING FOR STUDENTS APPLYING FOR OVERSEAS STUDY. THE STUDENT SAID HE WAS ASKED TO LIST THREE COUNTRIES WHERE HE WANTED TO GO. HE CHOSE THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT A "US QUOTA" HAD BEEN SET FOR THE 1978-79 SCHOOL YEAR. THE STUDENT SAID HE BELIEVES HE WILL BE GOING TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT YEAR IF HE PASSES THE EXAMINATION.

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2. COMMENT: AS WASHINGTON IS WELL AWARE, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS AND OTHER PRC CADRE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT CHINESE STUDENTS CANNOT STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES UNTIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, PRC OFFICIALS ARE CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDE ABOUT EXCHANGES WITH THE

UNITED STATES (MORE SCIENTIFIC DELEGATIONS, LONGER STAYS, ATTENDANCE AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES) AS PRESSURES FOR MODERNIZATION GROW. THE "US STUDENT QUOTA" MAY BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD AN "INFORMAL" STUDENT EXCHANGE WITH INDIVIDUAL US UNIVERSITIES, SIMILAR TO THE "PRIVATE" ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE ALLOWED SEVERAL AMERICAN STUDENTS TO STUDY IN THE PRC.

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